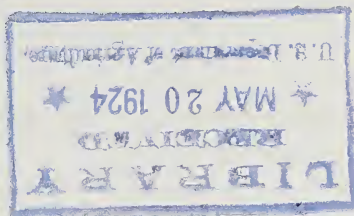


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GARDEN NOTES

Number Fourteen



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VAN WERT, OHIO

It was my privilege to arrive in California the last week in March, and I was delighted to find on sale at all the flower stands a great variety of Irises. I remained within a radius of one hundred miles of the city of San Francisco for five weeks, and spent much time visiting Iris gardens and studying the different varieties as they bloomed.

The Spanish, Dutch, and the native California wild Irises were very much in evidence and were interesting to all flower lovers, but I gave my particular attention to the bearded Irises, which are more liberally planted in California than in any other state or country I have visited. The range of varieties in general planting is very limited, but either this season was unusually favorable, or the common varieties grow more luxuriantly in the West than they do in the East.

I find that the Regelia and Oncocyclus Irises which we cannot grow at all in Ohio, are perfectly at home in California, and the fact which interested me still more is, that the California hybridizers are succeeding in making crosses between the rare Oncocyclus sorts and our bearded varieties. One of the hybrids which I understood to be a cross between the very, very, very rare Gatesi and our bearded Parisiana

is as beautiful as Sir Arthur Hort's Leonata. If it could be propagated and grown in the East, I am sure the originator would be justified in asking fifty dollars each for the first few roots of it he would be willing to place upon the market.

Another interesting thing about the propagation of new Irises in the locality I visited is the fact that all the work is being done by college professors. Prof. E. O. James, who is connected with Mills College in Oakland, the largest women's school on the coast; Prof. Sidney Mitchell and Prof. E. O. Essig, both of whom are connected with the University of California, which is located in Berkeley, are doing excellent work in developing strains of Irises which are especially adapted to the dry California climate. Both Mr. James and Mr. Mitchell told me they had great faith in the Mohr seedling Conquistador as a pollen parent, capable of unlocking and freeing the good qualities which are bound up in many of the best varieties now on the market.

You may be interested to know that Conquistador is of Mesopotamica parentage and that it is both the largest and tallest Iris I have ever seen, though not the most beautiful, and that it is considered of value for breeding purposes only. The growers on the coast seem to think that it is so valuable for the Iris breeder that they place it in the same class for their work in which the English growers place Dominion and in which many American growers place Lent A. Williamson. I was much interested in the qualities for which each breeder is striving, and in the crosses he had planned, to accomplish the results he wished to attain.

I wish I might devote a whole issue of my Garden Notes to observations on Irises in California, and after two or three more visits to that land of sunshine, I may try to tell you something which will be of interest about their new Irises, but as the blooming season approaches in my own garden I am particularly interested in it. Intending visitors may wish to know that they will find in my garden over fifty Dominions which are large enough to bloom, although the bloom stalks have not yet begun to develop. I am sure many Iris lovers will want to see the Dominion seedlings in bloom, and I am hoping that two or three of the seven Swazi fans will send up bloom stalks. Swazi has been the most difficult of the Dominion seedlings to get acclimated, although Bruno has not done much better. Moa, on the other hand, is right at home in my garden and I will be greatly disappointed if many of its fifteen or twenty fans do not show good bloom. Duke of Bedford and Cardinal are almost, if not quite as strong as Moa, and less than a half dozen bloom stalks on each of these two varieties will be

somewhat of a disappointment to me. Glamour, a Dominion seedling which pleased me very much in England two years ago, is strong enough to reward us with a few bloom stalks also.

I have heard a great deal of speculation as to the parentage of Dominion, and some of my friends have asked Mr. Bliss what varieties he used, but as he is quite deaf, his replies have always indicated that he misunderstood the question which was being asked. I have thought of Cordelia or Monsignor as being probably in the line of descent, or rather ascent of this famous Iris, but of course this is only a personal speculation. I believe visitors will find over fifty other Bliss seedlings in the garden, very many of which I hope will bloom.

We all know that M. Denis, of the south of France, used the Ricardi species to build up his line of seedlings which has attracted so much favorable attention, and I am hoping that Madame Durrand, which will probably rank as high as Mlle. Schwartz (Denis), will show the same splendid quality which I admired in the plant blooming in Prof. James' garden with its tall bloom stalk and beautiful massive bloom. There are over forty other new varieties introduced by Denis which may show bloom in my garden this year and, as the best only of them should be retained in commerce, in order to aid me in forming my opinion I hope that visitors to the garden will, on their return home, mail me a copy of their notes on the varieties which they find in bloom at the time of their visits.

I know every Iris lover will want to see Mr. Dykes' Aphrodite, as at the present time it has obtained most favorable recognition, and there are in the garden ten other varieties originated by him which should rank very high. He tells me there are far too many Irises being placed upon the market, and he believes that growers should send out only those seedlings which have extraordinary merit. I am sorry that I did not ask Mr. Dykes what he was using for the foundation of his propagating line, for I feel sure he would have told me and, as he is a most interesting writer, I am greatly in hopes that either in the "Flower Grower" or in the "Iris Bulletin" we will soon see a new article from him on procedure to be observed in Iris breeding.

I fear that Chasseur, the new yellow Iris originated by Vilmorins, will not bloom this season. It seemed to me to be by far the best yellow Iris which has been originated in Europe, although I must confess that the standards on Citronella, originated by Mr. Bliss, were superior to the standards on Chasseur and, as the carriage and type of Citronella

are better than ^fChasseur, it is possible that Citronella will be a better plant to breed from to produce the ideal yellow Iris which is so much talked about and sought after. Vilmorins, however, do not need to depend upon Chasseur for their reputation in the Iris world, for all visitors to the garden who see Ambassadeur, Magnifica, Ballerine, Cluny, Isoline, Medrano, Opera, and the twenty other varieties which Mr. Mottet, of the Vilmorin firm, has placed upon the market, will realize the extreme high standard of their Irises.

When I was in England I visited Sir Arthur Hort's garden, and I fell as much in love with his Leonata as with any Iris I have ever seen. I do not know what foundation stock Sir Arthur has been using, but whatever it is I fear it is not adapted to our American climate, for many of his varieties failed to grow when planted in my garden. Leonata, however, is strong and vigorous, and I am hoping to see bloom upon it as well as upon Hermione, Willoughby, Antonio, Miranda, and Anne Bullen, all of which rank very high among the Hort seedlings. Sir Arthur has adopted the plan of giving his seedlings the names of Shakespeare's characters.

When I was in England I had a most enjoyable visit with Mr. Yeld, and I saw his varieties blooming to perfection such as I hope American visitors may see in my "European Iris Garden" this year. Asia and Prospero were my two favorites as I saw them on the other side, but in my own garden I have found that Prospero is the stronger of the two, and much more able to contend with our American climate. Both are tall and stately and deserve the high place which has been given them in the Iris world. Lord of June and Neptune, originated by Mr. Yeld a little earlier in his career, have been planted very freely in my garden, and I hope they will show their usual large bloom of great merit again this season. I like to place our own Mr. Williamson and Mr. Yeld in the same class, because both of them have refrained from placing many Irises on the market, and both have made their reputation on quality rather than on quantity. In the early part of this article I mentioned the fact that the Iris originators in California were college professors. It is very interesting to notice that three of the greatest English producers of new Irises, Sir Arthur Hort, Mr. Yeld, and Mr. Dykes, are also teachers, as they prefer to be called in England.

I enjoyed my visit with Mr. Millet in his garden near Paris as much as with any flower lover I have ever met. His Iris, Madame Gaudichau, named in honor of his sister, will alone give him rank with the great Iris growers of the

First Bulletin on Progress of Iris Blooming Season in my EUROPEAN IRIS GARDEN

The following list of imported dwarf Irises are now in bloom, and a daily record of their color and form is being made.

Alpin
Arme D' Orient
Countesse D' Hauteville
Dixmude
Lobelia
La Perle
Petite Amie

Graminea
King George V.
Formosa
Commandant Driant
Schneekuppe
Zullichau
Zwanenburg

The following list of varieties, most of which are tall bearded, show bloom buds, either in the sheath or standing above the foliage, and if the weather is favorable, all of them should be in bloom within a week or ten days. Very hot weather will, undoubtedly, hasten the blooming time, and damp, cool weather will retard it.

Alphonso
Alcazar
Aphrodite
Archeveque
Belgica
Cardinal
Cluny
Dawn
Dejazet
Edouard Michel
Emir
Germaine Le Clerc
Glamour
Hippolyta
Hippolyta Pernet
Hortense Leroy
Kashmir White
Kurdistan
Lady Byng
Le Pactole
Lord of June
Ma Mie
Mme. Blanche Pion
Mme. De Sevigne
Mme. Gaudichau

Mme. Guerville
Mme. Leveque
Manon
Miranda
Mistral
Miss Wilmott
Mlle. Schwartz
Moa
Moliere
Oporto
Parc De Neuilly
Paulina
Pioneer
Porcelain
Prosper Laugier
Queen Elinor
Queen Flavia
Queen Mary
Rheintraube
Ringdove
Ruby
Shiraz
Trojana
Turco
William Marshall
Yellow Hammer

You will notice there are three Dominion seedlings in this list, Cardinal, Glamour and Moa. It is probable that the other Dominion seedlings will be included in next week's bulletin. Bulletins will be issued at least once a week and will be mailed to all who are interested and ask for them.

LEE R. BONNEWITZ.

world, and I am very much in hopes that one of his newer seedlings, Mr. O. Perthuis, named in honor of his wife's father, will bloom in my garden this season so that visitors may see it also, for it gave me the greatest thrill of any of the new varieties which I saw last season. Other Millet varieties which visitors should see this year are Colonel Candelot, Mady Carriere, Lionel Millet, and Igouf, each of which has a particular characteristic that draws attention to itself.

At the great Paris Iris Show two years ago, a firm new to American enthusiasts, Cayeux & LeClere, captured the highest prizes, and we Americans were so impressed with the Irises they exhibited that we made a special trip to their gardens, located some distance from Paris. The trip was very much worth while, for their garden was altogether different from any other Iris garden we had ever seen. While in France I purchased from them all their prize winners and every other superior variety grown by them and, as these Irises have had two seasons' growth in my own garden, I am in hopes that all of them will bloom and please Americans at home as well as they pleased Americans abroad. Here are the varieties which I deemed worthy of a place in my garden, and a study of them will give you a fair idea of the results which Mr. Cayeux is striving to attain in the Iris world: Aurelle, Fedora, Eclairer, Belisaire, Blanc de Cachemire, Germaine LeClere, Glorise, Imperator, Jean Chevreau, Manon, Liberty, LeGrand Ferre, Massena, Peau Rouge, Salonique, Trouvaille, Mme. Janiaud, Mme. Henry Cayeux, and Mme. Abel Chatenay.

Mr. Amos Perry, of Enfield, England, has given much time and effort to improving Irises, and two of the most sought after varieties, English Black Prince and Richard II, were originated by him. Both of these varieties are growing excellently in my garden, and I would be greatly pleased if some of his newer varieties like Marion Cran could show bloom in the garden this year, but the indications are that we will probably have to wait until next year to compare Mr. Perry's newer varieties with those of other foreign growers.

Future issues of these Garden Notes will be devoted to observations of the colors, habits, both good and bad, of these and other Irises as they bloom in the garden.

As I have sent out twenty thousand invitations to visit my "European Iris Garden" during the blooming season, it will be wise for intending visitors to arrange for hotel accommodations in advance. Of course I realize that only a small percentage of the twenty thousand invitations will

bring visitors, for these invitations were sent to persons living in Maine and California and all the other states between them. The great distance to be traveled will prohibit many Iris lovers from visiting the garden, yet as Van Wert is a town of less than ten thousand inhabitants you will realize that our hotel accommodations are limited. I submit a list of the hotels and their rates, and if intending visitors from either the East or West cannot reserve accommodations in advance, I feel sure that they can be entertained in either of the larger cities, Fort Wayne or Lima, both of which are located on the Pennsylvania Railroad, less than forty miles distant from Van Wert, and, as Van Wert is on a main line of the Pennsylvania and as it has also an electric line connecting it with both Lima and Fort Wayne, I am sure that visitors can arrange for accommodations which will give them all the daylight hours in the garden.

Hotel Marsh, Van Wert, Ohio (American Plan), \$3.50 and \$4.00 per day.

Hotel Newton, Van Wert, Ohio (European Plan), \$1.25, \$1.50.

Avenue Hotel, Van Wert, Ohio (European Plan), \$1.25, \$1.50.

Park View Hotel, Van Wert, Ohio (European Plan), \$1.50 to \$3.25 per day.

The Y. W. C. A. has about ten rooms available at \$1.25 per day (Cafeteria in connection).

Van Wert, Ohio, May 14, 1924.